

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01 SCA-01 SCS-03 /083 W

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R 221620Z SEP 75

FM AMCONSUL OPORTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 676

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: ANGOLAN REFUGEES MARCH IN OPORTO

REF: OPORTO 198

1. SEVERAL THOUSAND REFUGEES GATHERED SEPT 20 IN OPORTO CRYSTAL PALACE FOR AN AFTERNOON RALLY ORGANIZED BY COMMITTEE OF OVERSEAS REFUGEES IN THE NORTH (CDUN). SPEAKERS FROM CDUN COORDINATING COUNCIL FOCUSED ATTENTION ON PROBLEMS OF EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING WHICH CONFRONT NEWLY ARRIVING REFUGEES. PORTUGUESE NEWS MEDIA WAS CRITICIZED FOR FAILING TO ADEQUATELY PUBLICIZE THE PLIGHT OF THE REFUGEES. SEVERAL SPEAKERS ALSO CONDEMNED THE GOVERNMENT'S DECOLONIZING POLICIES.

2. FOLLOWING THE RALLY, REFUGEES CONDUCTED SILENT MARCH THROUGH OPORTO BEHIND BLACK DRAPED NATIONAL FLAG AND SIGN READING "WHO SAVES THE PORTUGUESE IN ANGOLA?" MARCHERS PAUSED IN FRONT OF FIVE CONSULATES (US, FRG, SWISS, FRENCH AND BRAZILIAN) WHILE LEADERS DELIVERED LETTERS TO EACH.

3. I RECEIVED FROM GROUP OF FOUR SPOKESMEN A LETTER ADDRESSED TO US CONSUL IN OPORTO WHICH READS: "THE OPORTO COMMITTEE OF OVERSEAS

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REFUGEES REPRESENTING THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES WHO PARTICIPATED IN TODAY'S

RALLY AND REPRESENTING ALSO THE HUNDRED OF THOUSANDS STILL LIVING IN ANGOLA AS VICTIMS OF HARSH AND BRUTAL CONDITIONS TO WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN INVOLUNTARILY SUBJECTED, REQUEST YOUR PERSONAL INTERVENTION TOGETHER WITH THAT OF YOUR AMBASSADOR IN LISBON, IN ASKING FROM YOUR GOVERNMENT ALL POSSIBLE AID WHICH, FROM A HUMANITARIAN STANDPOINT, COULD BE OFFERED INCLUDING: (1) ASSISTANCE IN THE IMMEDIATE TRANSPORT OF THOSE PORTUGUESE WHO STILL HAVE HAD NO OPPORTUNITY TO LEAVE ANGOLA FOR LACK OF MEANS; (2) THE POSSIBILITY OF REFUGE AND EMPLOYMENT FOR SOME OF THESE PORTUGUESE IN YOUR COUNTRY. IN ANTICIPATION OF YOUR GOOD OFFICES WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST THANKS FOR EVERYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE TO ALLEVIATE THE MISERY WHICH ALL OF US HAVE SUFFERED OR ARE SUFFERING." THE LETTER WAS SIGNED BY THREE MEMBERS REPRESENTING CDUN.

4. DURING SHORT INFORMAL CONVERSATION, SPOKESMEN INFORMED ME THAT OTHER FOUR CONSULATES WERE RECEIVING SIMILAR LETTERS THAT DAY AND TWELVE MORE LETTERS WOULD BE SENT AFTER THE MARCH TO ALMOST ALL REMAINING CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVES IN OPORTO. THE FEW EXCEPTIONS INCLUDE SPAIN, GREECE AND ITALY. SPOKESMEN DEPARTED WITH MARCHERS AFTER EMPHASIZING AGAIN THE NECESSITY FOR INCREASED ASSISTANCE IN EVACUATING REMAINING REFUGEES FROM ANGOLA.

5. MARCH WAS COMPLETED IN ORDERLY FASHION AND NO INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED. THERE WAS EXTENSIVE LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE THE FOLLOWING DAY. ONLY ARTICLE WHICH NOTED SIGNS OF DANGER APPEARED IN OPORTO'S MOST LEFTIST DAILY JOURNAL DE NOTICIAS. IT QUOTED ONE RALLY SPEAKER AS SAYING "TODAY WE MARCH IN SILENCE, THE SECOND MARCH WILL NOT

BE SILENT, AND WE TAKE NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE THIRD." SAME SPEAKER ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID "WHOEVER IS NOT WITH US, IS AGAINST US."

PENNER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, REFUGEE RELIEF, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Draft Date:** 22 SEP 1975  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchandr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Film Number:** D750328-0346  
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